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PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION TO HOST YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY MEETINGS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

BOSTON - Monday, September 21, 2009 - On Wednesday, September 23rd in Springfield, the Patrick-Murray Administration will kick off a series of statewide community meetings specifically tailored to young adults between the ages of 18 to 35. In keeping with Governor Patrick's commitment to civic engagement and in recognition of the vital role young people play in the state's economy, the meetings will give participants a chance to network, discuss a common vision for Massachusetts and share suggestions with the administration.

"These meetings are meant to open the lines of communication between our administration and young people, and give students and workers a chance to tell us what we're doing right and what we can do better," said Governor Patrick. "We want to help you meet your goals and we want you to thrive in Massachusetts. These discussions present us with an excellent opportunity to do just that."

Massachusetts is a great place to launch a career or business, live, play, and start a family. CNBC recently ranked the Commonwealth as the 8th best state in the nation to do business, including 1st in education and Top 10 in Quality of Life and Innovation. Home to world-renowned colleges and universities, Massachusetts attracts students from across the globe. Ensuring these students join the state's workforce and strengthening vocational training and other job pathways are key components of the Patrick-Murray Administration's economic development strategy.

"We are fortunate to have great colleges and universities that attract young adults from across Massachusetts and the world. There are talented young people in every corner of the Commonwealth wondering if this is the place to launch their ambitions," said Lieutenant Governor Murray. "To harness their energy and innovation, we need to understand their needs and the challenges they face in hopes that they will stay here and contribute to the future growth of Massachusetts."

"Young people are critical to the economic future of the Commonwealth," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Greg Bialecki. "These forums give us an opportunity to hear from them and work collaboratively on a shared vision of the future of Massachusetts."

Secretary Bialecki will host the first in the "What's Your Massachusetts?" series this Wednesday, September 23rd at 436 Dwight Street in Springfield. Labor & Workforce Development Secretary Suzanne Bump will hold the second meeting at UMass Dartmouth on Tuesday, September 29th. Over the next ten weeks, administration officials will conduct meetings across the state. Please check <http://engage.blog.state.ma.us/> for updates on the full schedule and additional resources and opportunities for young adults are available online at: <http://www.massitsallhere.com/opportunity-here.html>.

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